



## General Assembly

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### Seventieth session

Items 15 and 117 of the provisional agenda\*

**Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up  
to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and  
summits in the economic, social and related fields**

**Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit**

### **Letter dated 14 September 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

As the draft outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", is transmitted to the General Assembly at its seventieth session for action, I would like to request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the Assembly, under agenda items 15 and 117.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to you and your office, in particular Amina Mohamed, and to the co-facilitators of the post-2015 negotiations, Ambassador Macharia Kamau and Ambassador David Donoghue, their teams, other delegations, civil society organizations, businesses and the many millions of people around the world who have participated in the process to design the new global development agenda.

As stated in the preamble to the 2030 Agenda, eradicating poverty and ending hunger are among the greatest challenges facing our world today and indispensable requirements for sustainable development. Tackling these global challenges will require coherent, concerted and coordinated efforts. We will need to build upon what we have learned and find innovative approaches to eradicating poverty and ending hunger. We will also need to be tenacious in our efforts to complete the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals, including improving maternal, newborn and child health and empowering women and girls.

Canada is pleased that the importance of peace and security is highlighted in the new agenda. In that context, I would like to emphasize that Canada is committed to the goal of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinians, including the creation of a Palestinian State living side by side in peace and security with Israel.

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\* A/70/150.



With respect to the reference to "foreign occupation" in paragraph 35, Canada regrets any efforts to politicize the 2030 Agenda. Such efforts detract from constructive initiatives to implement it and serve only to further inhibit practical solutions. The best way to address the current situation between Israel and the Palestinians is through a comprehensive peace agreement achieved through negotiations between the parties.

I would also like to clarify our understanding of two elements of the outcome document. First, as stated in paragraph 55, each Government decides how the aspirational and global targets should be incorporated into national planning processes, policies and strategies. With that context in mind, Canada understands that even targets that make specific reference to national measurements, such as targets 1.2 and 10.1, are collective global targets to which individual countries will contribute in accordance with their national priorities and circumstances.

Second, we strongly support the objectives of target 8.7, including measures to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour. In that context, we wish to underscore that we interpret the reference to the recruitment and use of child soldiers in the context of existing international law. Canada has stringent safeguards to ensure that recruitment into the Canadian Armed Forces is not forced or compulsory, and that any deployment of members of the Armed Forces to take a direct part in hostilities is fully compliant with applicable international obligations.

In closing, I would like to reaffirm the commitment of Canada to working constructively with the United Nations system and other delegations as attention turns to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

(Signed) Guillermo E. **Rishchynski**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative